

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 08370 102309Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /084 W
-----057268 111441Z /45

R 101603Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6086
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, GE
SUBJECT: GDR OBSERVANCE OF 60TH ANNIVERSARY
RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

REF: BERLIN 8110

1. GDR OBSERVANCE OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION CULMINATED IN AN
ADDRESS BY ERICH HONECKER TO ASSEMBLED PARTY AND
GOVERNMENT DIGNITARIES AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS ON
NOVEMBER 5 COMBINED WITH A LAVISH RECEPTION AND
ENTERTAINMENT FOR INVITED GUESTS. HONECKER
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DEVOTED HIS ENTIRE SPEECH TO PRAISING THE SOVIET
UNION AND THE CPSU, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION
GIVEN TO SOVIET CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF
DISARMAMENT. HONECKER MANAGED TO MENTION BREZHNEV
BY NAME FOUR TIMES IN HIS SPEECH, IN EACH CASE
QUOTING FROM OR PARAPHRASING BREZHNEV'S 60TH
ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS NO POPULAR OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLIDAY ITSELF. THIS WAS IN CONTRAST TO THE MASSIVE MEDIA BUILDUP FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION AND THE HUGE FOUR-DAY YOUTH FESTIVAL WHICH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED IT (REFTEL). THERE WERE NO ORGANIZED FESTIVITIES FOR THE GENERAL POPULATION ON THE DAY OF HONECKER'S SPEECH NOR ON NOVEMBER 7, SOVIET NATIONAL DAY, EXCEPT FOR A WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT THE SOVIET WAR MEMORIAL IN TREPTOW. WHILE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS DOUBTLESSLY SPONSORED THEIR OWN CELEBRATORY ACTIVITIES, EAST BERLIN WAS SINGULARLY LACKING IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FESTIVITY AT WHAT ONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED TO BE THE CLIMAX OF A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ON THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION WHICH HAD BEEN BUILDING STEADILY FOR MONTHS. BOLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, GC
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